REFERENCES:
References: NRS 331.200(c), 407.0475, 407.065   NAC 407.010, 407.065, 407.085, 407.088

PURPOSE: This policy is intended to encourage the sport of geocaching while assuring that park facilities and natural and cultural resources are protected.

ORGANIZATION: The division encourages use of the parks for various casual recreational pursuits.

DEFINITIONS:
Geocaching – includes, but is not limited to the traditional cache, mystery cache, multi-caches, virtual caches and event caches.

Virtual and Earth Caches - These are not true caches. They both deal with a permanent feature or landmark. The locator answers questions or takes photos to prove they were at that location.

Traditional Cache - *The traditional cache is a container that includes at least a logbook. It may also contain trade or exchange items for trade or exchange.*

Multi-Cache - This involves several caches or waypoints where clues are provided to locate the final cache.

Mystery Cache
This is a flexible type of cache where the locator must solve a puzzle to obtain coordinates, some task may have to be undertaken, or some other additional requirement beyond signing a logbook.

Letterbox Hybrid - This is a cache that contains a signature stamp and a logbook. The locator usually has their own personal logbooks and stamps. A personal stamp is used to mark the cache's logbook, and the cache's signature stamp to mark their personal logbooks. It can be a single or multi-cache.

Event Cache - These include regular event caches, mega-event caches, and CITO (Cache In Trash Out) event caches. All of these are events organized by geocachers and are open to all geocachers. This has the potential to attract a large number of participants. The mega-event caches are designed to attract geocachers on regional, national, or global scale. The CITO event is a specialized event where the geocachers go to a specified area on a particular day to pick up litter or remove junk from a park or public land. No actual cache is placed.

PRIOR POLICY: This policy supersedes the prior policy dated 9/2009.

PROCEDURE

I. History:

     A.   In general, geocaching is an outdoor adventure game for GPS (global positioning system) users. Participants use the outdoors as a backdrop for their treasure hunt using GPS technology to locate the treasure or find clues to locate it. The "treasure" is usually a weatherproof container with a logbook, and sometimes items for trade or exchange. The location is posted on geocache websites. This great family activity fits the definition of a casual recreation activity available to all.

B. *Since this cache posting is inviting the general public, guidelines are required so the activity does not damage the various resources or present a hazard to the visitor. Many parks have locations that are sensitive to visitor intrusion or disturbance, whether they are cultural, prehistoric, paleontological, geologic, biological, or aesthetic. State Parks does not to promote public use of areas that are hazardous.*

II. A geocache may be placed in a state park under the following conditions:

A. The geocache should be placed in an area where the search complies with designated land use activities. There will be no surface disturbance or rearrangement of rocks, earth, or other feature of a park.

B. The geocache should be in an area where there is a minimal risk of damage to natural and cultural resources such as prehistoric campsites, cryptobiotic soil, or endangered species and located away from utilities. This would include controlling the density of caches to avoid both confusion to the cache hunters and limit concentrated use in one area that can lead to unwanted social trails and surface erosion.

C. There should be no commercial connection to the cache where the locator earns a cash prize or is directed into a commercial establishment or business. There will be no commercial gain to a person who post a geocache on a website.

D. If the geocache is an event cache or seems to be more than a casual activity, a Special Use Permit (SUP) may be required.

E. *The content of the cache will not include anything the park supervisor deems objectionable. Objectionable items would include contraband, pornography, food items, and anything potentially hazardous.*

F. Park's staff should monitor geocaching websites periodically to see if any caches have been placed in a park without permission. A major geocache website is www.geocaching.com.

RULES:

I. Any person who wishes to place a geocache and post it on a website shall register it with the park. (Attachment A) The signed registration will serve as a permit and a copy will be retained by the applicable park. This gives Parks' staff the opportunity to determine the type of cache, and if it's intended location poses any hazard to the resource, geocacher, or the general public.

II. Park's staff will keep a record of all geocaches and inspect them periodically.

III. *The cache should be clear or translucent plastic. A latched, medium sized container approx. 12 inches X 12 inches X 6 inches or smaller is preferred.*

IV. The cache should not be hidden in a fashion that requires digging or overturning rocks to find it.

V. The name of the cache should be clearly printed on the outside of the container and match the name on the website posting.

VI. The minimum content requirement is a logbook and a pencil.

VII. Any unauthorized cache will be considered abandoned property after 24 hours and subsequently removed. The 24 hour limit will allow the owner to pick it up in the event it was just a temporary cache left as part of a family activity or small group such as the Boy Scouts during an overnight camping trip.

VIII.   *Caches that are removed by park staff will be processed per the division's Lost and Found policy.*

IX.   *Cache should be no closer than 0.1 miles from another cache to avoid confusion and congestion.*

Original signed by: SIGNED Eric M. Johnson, Administrator	1/6/14 Date

Original signed by: SIGNED Leo Drozdoff, Director	1/7/14 Effective Date

*Review Date:*_____

NEVADA DIVISION OF STATE PARKS
GEOCACHE REGISTRATION/PERMIT

Geocache Title:	
Geocache Description:	

Location Coordinates: **LAT/LON**　　　　　　**UTM**	**Website Posted to:**

Location Description:
Owner:
Address (Street address, city, state, zip code):

Work Telephone:	Home Telephone:	Fax:	E-mail:

Comments:

Authorized Start Date:	Expiration Date:

The permittee agrees to, will not waive, and intends to assert available NRS chapter 41 liability limitations in all cases. The permittee will defend, protect, indemnify, and hold harmless the STATE OF NEVADA, its officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all claims, losses, suits, or actions of whatever nature resulting from or arising out of the activities of the permittee, its subcontractors, or employees, under this agreement and to pay all claims, damages, judgments, legal costs, or any other expense or liability related thereto: liability of both parties shall not be subject to punitive damages.

Signature of Applicant: _____ **Date:** _____

This permit is not valid until the following signatures are obtained.

Signature, Park Supervisor: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature, Regional Manager: _____ **Date:** _____